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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Friday - 13 November 1953

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1. The DCI has approved the briefing of Mr. Robert Sprague, as set forth in Item 1 of the Journal of 12 November, and has designated DD/I as the coordinator. I have informed Mr. Rhodes, of the Committee staff, and the briefing has been set for 10:30 on 18 November in the DCI's conference room.

2. In connection with Item 2 of my Journal of 12 November, I have informed Mr. Joyce, of the staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee, with Mr. Kirkpatrick's approval, that we cannot comment as to whether personnel are or are not on duty with CIA, and explained that if they were on duty in a covert capacity we could not admit it, and that therefore we would normally make no statement when a person was not on duty as by implication when we made a no comment statement it would indicate that a person was on duty. Mr. Joyce asked if I would send him a letter to this effect, but I told him that I would prefer not putting a statement in writing as it might become subject to considerable misinterpretation in hands other than his own. Mr. Joyce then stated that he would refer our reply back to the originating office, and if any additional information were needed the originating office would contact me directly.

3. Attended a meeting held by of the Security Office, on the new regulations necessitated by the new Executive Order on safeguarding security information. 25X1A

4. We are informed by RFE that Senator Watkins (R., Utah) visited RFE in Munich on 7 October. He received a general briefing on RFE to get a comparison of RFE, BBC and Radio Liberation. The Senator was then interviewed by the desk and news chiefs for broadcast on the general subject of emigration to the United States and the operation of current legislation. The Senator did not really get a comprehensive picture, but his staff assistant, Mr. Burton, who was formerly with the Department of State received a favorable impression which it is believed he will communicate to the Senator during the trip.

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5. On 8 October Congressman Reed (R., Ill.) Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, together with Congressman Jonas (R., Ill.) and Mrs. Thompson (R., Mich.), and staff Chief Walter Besterman, visited RFE and had a recording session with the desk and news chiefs and general discussion regarding RFE. The delegation was informed, in reply to Mrs. Thompson's question, that there were no Federal funds in the operation, and Mrs. Thompson said that RFE certainly appeared to know what to do "unlike the Voice of America." She said she was going to write Henry Ford of the great work that was being done by RFE. Besterman (whose wife works for NCFE) told one of the desk people that the entire group was extremely favorably impressed. [] European Director, handled the briefing and pointed out that there was a purpose for VOA, rather than espousing its elimination.

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6. On 9 October Congressman Sikes (D., Fla.) ^{of the House Appropriations Committee,} visited RFE following a luncheon with Condon and the Consul General. He was accompanied by a major who volunteered that RFE's evaluation section was one that really worked and was very well organized. Mr. Sikes was interested in programming, intelligence, and counter-measures against jamming, and these were discussed with him. Mr. Sikes said this was the first time that he felt he understood the jamming problem, despite many prior explanations during appropriations hearings. He was very favorably impressed with the evaluation section and some of the letters received from Poland. He asked that a representative collection of scripts and an analysis of the Polish letters be sent him. The Congressman left saying that RFE should keep up the good work.

7. Congressman Kersten (R., Wisc.) visited RFE in September and expressed great interest in obtaining evidence of effectiveness, particularly in Poland. [] European Director for RFE, has therefore sent the Congressman, through the New York office, a Polish Desk report of effectiveness, citing many of the letters received by them. Mr. [] feels that they convinced Mr. Kersten that they were paying attention to religion and philosophy in the programming to a much greater extent than the Congressman had been told. Cong. Kersten asked [] 25X1A [] of RFE, as to his opinion on the subject of Polish exile military units in the West. [] was not in a position to refuse the request, but has cleared the reply with his superiors and cites it as his personal opinion.

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